



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Group Art Unit: 3726

Applicant: DEEPAK K. PAI ET AL.

Examiner: R. K. Chang

Serial No.: 10/765,201

Filed: January 28, 2004

Title: METHODS FOR FILLING HOLES IN  
PRINTED WIRING BOARDS

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

Commissioner for Patents  
Customer Window  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In response to the Notice of Allowance of May 18, 2010, Applicants have upon further review noted the following statement in the Office Action of October 11, 2006:

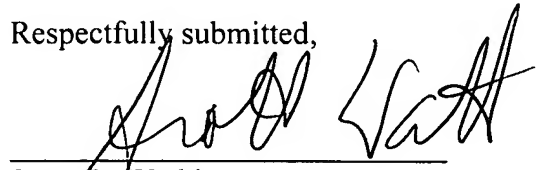
The application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species: species 1: claims 1-9 and species 2: claims 25-32. The species are independent or distinct because species 1 does not require simultaneously removed the photoresist in the first layer in an area above the hole and remove the photoresist, while species 2 does not require leaving the photoresist on the second surface of the PWB.

Applicants agree that the inventions of the noted species were distinct, but disagree with the specific rationale offered by the Examiner. Specifically, that statement "species 2 does not require leaving the photoresist on the second surface of the PWB" potentially implies that species 1 claims do have such a requirement.

Applicants disagree with any such implication. The claims of species 1 make no express mention of the status of the photoresist of the second surface. No such limitation exists beyond the express language of claims 1-9.

If there are any questions, the Examiner is invited to call applicants' undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: August 18, 2010

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